(b) if so, the purpose thereof; and

(c) the assistance so far given from the fund to writers, artists etc., category-wise?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) Yes Sir. It was launched on 29-3-97.

(b) and (c) The fund is not intended to duplicate the schemes of the Department which include financial assistance to writers and artistes. Instead it is intended to promote private-public partnership for mobilization of extra budgetary resources, conceptualization and implementation of projects for conservation of the rich cultural heritage of the country. Among the projects undertaken are :

(i) The upgradation of the environs of the Humayun's Tomb complex in collaboration with Agha Khan Trust for Culture.

(ii) The restoration and enlivening of environs of Shaniwarwada, Pune in collaboration with Pune Municipal Corpoation, Maharashtra State Tourism Development and Pune industrialists.

(iii) Child City, Durgapur in collaboration with Children's Academy, Durgapur.

(iv) Preservation of oral heritage in partnership with Jnana Pravaha Trust, Varanasi, and

(v) Preservation of Anegundi Village, Karnataka as a living heritage village in partnership with the Kishkinda Trust.

Further the Indian Oil Corporation is setting up a foundation, with a corpus of Rs. 25 crores to collaborate with the National Culture Fund for conservation of monuments and development of infrastructure. To begin with, eight monuments have been identified for conservation and development.

Profit earned from Bharat Rang Mahotsav

3864. DR. MAHESH CHANDRA SHARMA : Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the budget provision of "Bharat Rang Mahotsav" for March-April 2000 organised by National School of Drama, New Delhi;

(b) what amount has been actually spent in the festival; and

(c) the amount received from the sale of tickets in the festival?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) The budget provision for the Second Bharat Rang Mahotsav 2000 organised during March-April this year was Rs. 64.79 lakhs.

(b) The School has already incurred an expenditure of Rs. 59,99,527.

(c) The receipts from sale of tickets for the festival is Rs. 2,73,885.

Excavation at Fatehpur Sikri

3865. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU : Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Archaeological Survey of India is excavating a site near Fatehpur Sikri;

(b) if so, the details of the findings thereof;

(c) the conclusions sought to be drawn by Chairman of the Indian Archaeological Society thereof; and

(d) whether such efforts are aimed at "rectify" history and will be extended to other heritage sites?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) and (b) Yes sir, the ongoing excavation by the Archaeological survey of India at Bir Chhabili-ka-tila in Fatehpur Sikri in District Agra has yielded thirty-four pieces of sculptures. Some of them are of the Jain Tirthankaras namely, Rishabhanatha, Sambhavanatha, and Kunthunatha, and a few are of Jain Goddesses Ambika and Saraswati, all dateable to the 9th-10th century A. D.

(c) and (d) Archaeological Survey of India is not concerned with the personal views of any non-Governmental body or individual.

Historical Monuments in Maharashtra

3866. SHRI SURYABHAN PATIL VAHADANE : Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of historical monuments in Maharashtra State which have been identified as heritage sites;